

Brookline Preservation Commission

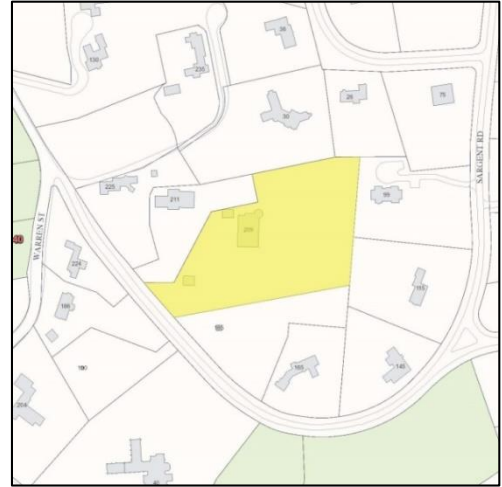
Demolition Application Report

Address: 57 Chatham Street

Applicant: LJEFF LLC

Building Type: House (Partial)

National Register Listing (if Applicable): Longwood National Register Historic District



Historical/Architectural Significance:

The residence at 57 Chatham Street was permitted for construction in December 1955 for Dr. Philip Solomon for \$45,000. Local architect Stanley Myers designed the single-family house. Myers, born in 1923 in Boston, grew up in Newton and served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he earned a Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Myers graduated from Harvard's Graduate School of Design in 1952, and afterwards organized his architectural firm, undertaking residential and commercial work. Early examples of Myers' works include eleven contemporary houses constructed between 1953-1955 in the Valley Spring Rd/Dorr Rd area of Newton. Myers designed himself a house, which also served as his studio, in Newton at 21 Manet Circle.

The 1970 AIA Directory notes that Myers' principal works include eight contemporary houses at Heath Estates in Brookline, some of which have been since demolished. Myers continued to design structures into the 21st century, and passed away in 2010. The first owners of 57 Chatham Street, the Solomon family, did not reside in the house long, as it was sold to Dr. Benjamin and Alice Banks in 1961, who owned the property for the next twenty-five years.

The wood framed one story structure retains its vertical siding and elements of stone veneer, as well as its matching large central chimney and surrounding stone walls. The recessed main entry and covered entry porch is located on the right side of the front elevation. Two original dormers, with sets of fixed glass, extend from either side of the low-pitched asphalt cross-hipped roof, which itself features open eave overhangs. Sets of casement windows, almost unanimously aligned with one another, are evident on the side and rear elevations; two bay casement windows, which were replaced in 2009 with clad, are hidden behind vegetation on the front elevation.

Additionally, the property is located in the Longwood National Register Historic District.

The house at 57 Chatham Street meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- b. The building is listed on or is within an area listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places;
- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house at 57 Chatham Street retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship.



Aerial view of 57 Chatham Street, looking east.



Aerial view of 57 Chatham Street, looking north.



Aerial view of 57 Chatham Street, looking west.



Aerial view of 57 Chatham Street, looking south



Photographs of the front elevation



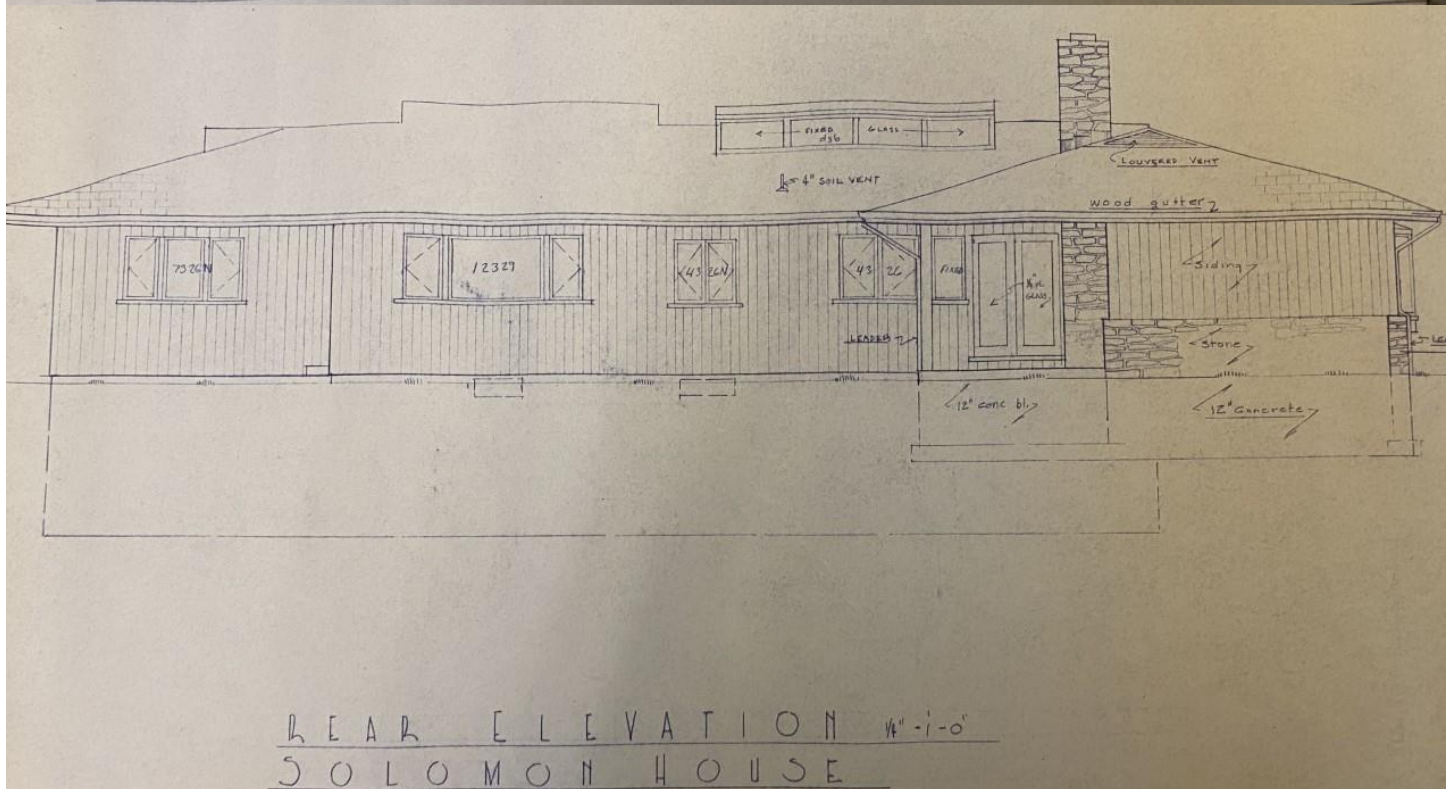
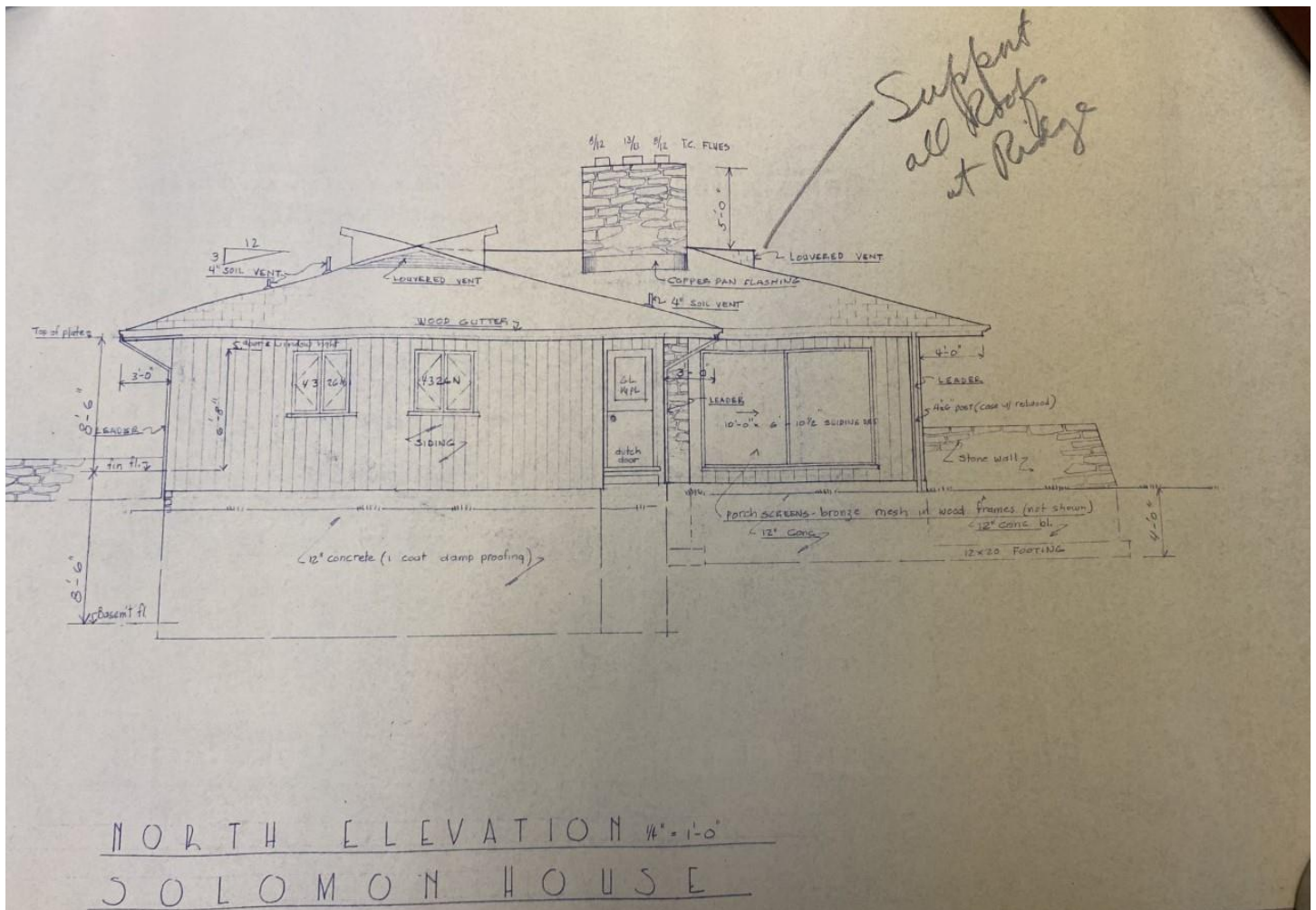
Photographs of the right side elevation (facing Chatham Circle)



Photographs of the left side elevation



Photograph of a portion of the rear of 57 Chatham Street



Photographs of the original plans – rear and left side elevations